GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
FINANCE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:228
ANSWERED ON:01.03.2002
UNCLAIMED MONEY IN BANKS
NARESH KUMAR PUGLIA

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large amount is lying unclaimed with nationalised banks in various accounts for quite a long time;

(b) if so, the details thereof, indicating the names of banks and such amount in each bank;

(c) whether any efforts have been made to locate the account holders and return the money to them or their heirs; (d if so, the details thereof and the success achieved in these efforts;

(e) whether there is any proposal to utilise this money lying unclaimed with banks for public utility services; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL)

(a) & (b) :- As reported by Reserve Bank of India (RBI), Rs. 415.92 crores are lying with the Nationalised Banks as unclaimed deposits as on 31st December, 2000 (Latest available) the details of which are given in the Annexure.

(c) & (d) :- In pursuance of the Committee on Customer Service in Banks (Goiporia Committee), the Reserve Bank of India advised the banks on 28.1.1992 to ensure that term deposit application form contains a direction for disposal of deposits on maturity. Further, these instructions were reiterated on 16.1.2001 and the banks were advised to ensure sending intimation of impending due date of deposit well in advance to their depositors as a rule in order to extend better customer service. The banks are generally following RBI`s instructions in this regard.

(e) & (f) :- There is a proposal to establish a Depositor`s Protection Trust Fund by the Reserve Bank of India providing for transfer of the amount lying in Unclaimed Accounts.